

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

JUL 14 1961

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Action

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Control: 8457
Rec'd: JULY 13, 1961
10:41 PMFE
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FROM: DJAKARTA

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 85, JULY 3, 3 PM

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AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SHAW SOUGHT CONFIRMATION FROM ME THIS WEEK THAT US IS NO LONGER HELPING REBELS. REASON FOR REQUEST WAS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE REPORT THAT CAT PILOT HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED AT SARAWAK AIRPORT TWO MONTHS AGO WHO SAID HE WAS ENROUTE FROM BANGKOK TO INDONESIA WITH AMMO. I GAVE SHAW CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE US NOT ASSISTING REBELS.

JONES

MEM/22

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By GPO NARA Date 8/4/00

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM. Ambassador JAKARTA

Date Sent: July 16, 1961

TO: Seostate WASHINGTON

NO: A-24

Action Assigned to JUL 20 3 08 PM '61

REF: Despatch #807, dated April 19, 1961, CG-419 taken Noted PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

Ambassador and Labor Attaché called upon Labor Minister Ahem July 6 and presented U.S. Labor Secretary Goldberg's letter of invitation to the Minister and Mrs. Ahem to visit America. 78/SP

Ahem expressed appreciation, indicated that he had approval of Foreign Minister Subandrio for trip. Remaining question is final Sukarno approval and timing. Ahem emphasized that he could not leave very soon, due long absence from office during recently completed trip with President's party to Yugoslavia, USSR, China, etc. However, conversation indicated he may make visit late 1961. He again (see reference despatch) mentioned possibility coordinating travel with Ruslan Abdulgani.

In discussion his impressions recent trip with Sukarno, Aham commented on differences between Yugoslav and Soviet trade union and production systems, said USSR unionists, whom he characterized as Communist political functionaries rather than true trade unionists, had criticized Yugoslav system of control of enterprises by workers councils independent of Yugoslav unions as "dualism." Implication was that Aham more favorable to Yugoslavs. On other hand, he spoke favorably of Rumanian Labor Minister, whom he described as former Social Democrat and veteran trade unionist and not seemingly Communist.

Ahem noted that Sukarno party stopped briefly in Fairbanks, Alaska during trip and that they impressed that SAC had, despite usual security restrictions, let them "see everything" involved in 24-hour SAC alert operation, including U-2s. He commented that while elsewhere in the Bloc countries all they had seen were MIGs and Soviet equipment, in Fairbanks and in Belgrade they had for first time seen latest American equipment. He slyly implied that Communist Belgrade provided modern U.S. defense aircraft while Djakarta forced to rely on USSR like Bloc adherents. Ambassador reminded him of C-130s, advantages of Neptunes, extensive unpublicized military aid.

Labor Attache took advantage of call to say farewell to Ahem. Ahem response was gracious and warm.

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COMMENT: Ahem appears to have gained considerably in self-confidence as result Sukarno trip. Friendliness toward America and Americans seems in no way shaken by Bloc exposure, though dictum that America losing cold war expounded in previous conversation (see reference despatch) may continue be problem toward which his U.S. program should be oriented.

JONES

LAB:RLKinney/jb
July 10, 1961

Ambassador: _____

DEPT OF STATE

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FROM : Amconsul MEDAN
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF :
NO. 2
DATE July 19, 1961

S/P-1 SURABAYA-1 JUL 21 1961 PARIS-1

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| | REC'D 8/7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SUBJECT: French Consular Agency in Medan and Comments on French Community.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

On July 14, the French sponsored a double ceremony to commemorate Bastille Day and the opening of a French Consular Agency in Medan. Though attendance at the ceremony was not large (no more than 50), it included many top officials, or their representatives, from the major Indonesian military and civil authorities in North Sumatra.

The main speaker at the ceremony was Pierre LAUNAY, a Frenchman of about 40 years, who has been designated French Consular Agent in Medan. M. Launay, however, is director of CITRA in Indonesia; he will, therefore, continue to reside in Djakarta, making only occasional trips to Medan. Most consular business in Medan will be taken care of by M. Raymond MEGARD, the slightly older (about 45 years) French Manager of CITRA's project at the port of Belawan, who has been designated as Vice Consular Agent.

The present plans for the French Consular Agency are modest: they call for the lease of a small office in Medan, to be staffed by one secretary (a local employee), which will serve largely as point for relaying messages and mail to the Vice-Consular Agent in Belawan.

The choice of CITRA personnel to serve in the Consular Agency seems quite natural inasmuch as the entire French community in North Sumatra (about 25, including dependents) consists of Frenchmen living at Belawan, where they work on the CITRA project to expand the port of Belawan. END UNCLASSIFIED

cc: Amembassy DJAKARTA
Dept. Pass Amconsul SURABAYA
and Amembassy PARIS
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Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. 2
From Medan

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COMMENT:

Though the site of the CITRA project and the limited size of the French community have afforded the French little chance to make close or extensive contacts among Indonesians, it seems fair to say that the general Indonesian reaction to the French presence is so far quite favorable. French obvious enjoyment of pleasure (but without excesses, at least in public) and a certain gentility in their personal relations with Indonesians strikes a favorable note among the Indonesians who come into contact with the French. It is also worth noting that at least some of the French have made an effort to show respect for and cater to Indonesian national pride. For example, there were more French than any other foreign nationality in the Lake Toba Motor Rally which the Indonesian Tourist Council sponsored on June 14.^{1/} At the July 14 reception, as another example, the guests were provided with Indonesian (as well as English) texts of Launay's speech, which was in French. The top managers of CITRA, Belawan, moreover, speak a commendable brand of Indonesian. When the Minister of Sea Communications visited the CITRA project about 3 months ago, CITRA manager Megard gave a lengthy welcoming speech (including the background of the Belawan project) in very good, though heavily accented, Indonesian, and his deputy was able to use both Indonesian and English with ease during the guided tour of the port project which followed the welcoming ceremony.

Finally, it is worth noting that the Consulate has heard only favorable comments on the quality and speed of work CITRA is undertaking at Belawan. During the guided tour of the project noted above, for example, the reporting officer talked with General SUPRAPTO, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Inter-Sumatran Command, Lt. Colonel Nur NASUTION, (KOREM C Commander, formerly Medan City Garrison), and Lt. Colonel Manaf LUBIS, Acting Commander of KODAM II; all three were obviously impressed by the progress being made at the CITRA project. Similar reactions have been noticed in conversations with Indonesian port, naval and customs officials.

^{1/} The rally consisted of a round-trip drive from Medan to Lake Toba in one day, following instructions as to average speeds for different laps of the journey. Contrary to many expectations, the rally proved to be extremely well organized.

The winners were not those who made the journey in the fastest time, but those who came closest to covering the distance in the total time established in the instructions.

French participants in the rally numbered 4, English 2 and American 1. Two Frenchman and 1 Englishman placed among the first 16 winners who received rally cups.

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Desp. No. 2
From Medan

Against this background, it may well be that there was more than mere rhetoric to General Suprpto's speech at the July 14 ceremony, the gist of which was that Indonesians are grateful for the assistance being received from the French, look forward to closer relations with the French in North Sumatra, and would be happy to see an expansion of French activities and assistance in the development of the Sumatran economy.

Donald R. Toussaint
Donald R. Toussaint
American Consul

B&F

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